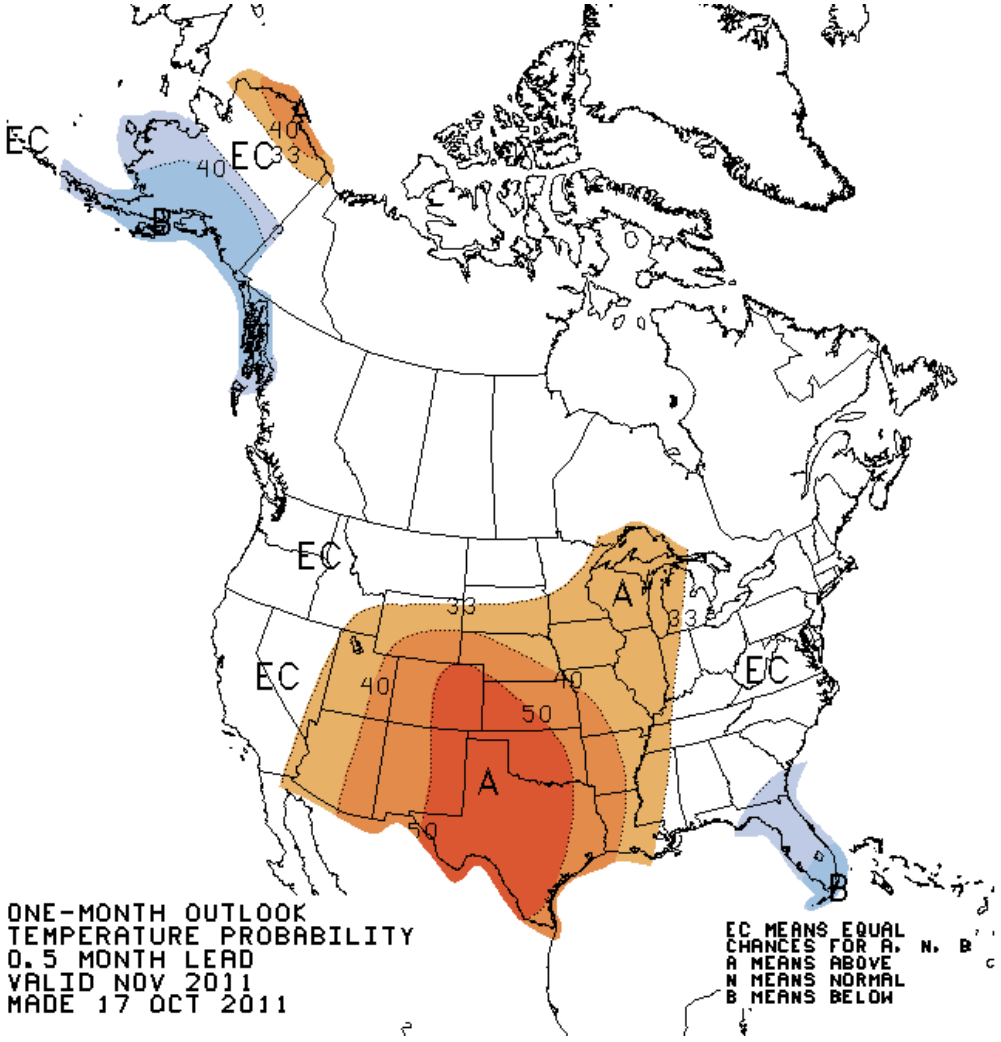
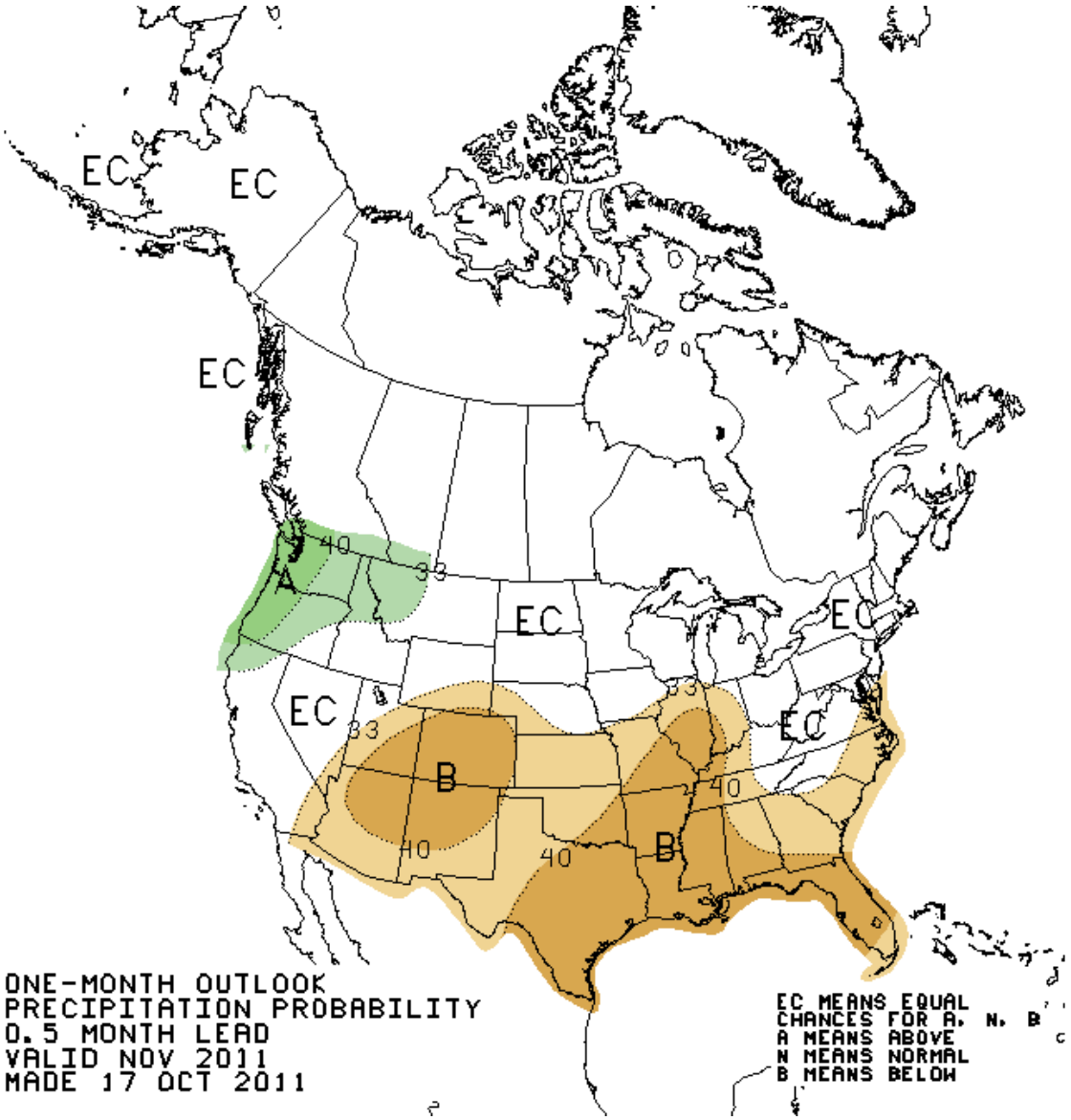
November 2011 CPC Temperature Outlook

During November of 2011, the CPC is forecasting enhanced chances of above normal temperatures for much of Central Region. The greatest probabilities reside across southwestern sections of Central Region. This forecast is supported by a number of the statistical tools, coupled with dynamical models that the CPC uses, along with the presence of below normal SSTs in the eastern Pacific. The only exceptions to this above normal forecast are for areas across the Northern Plains and portions of the Ohio Valley. This includes North Dakota, portions of northern South Dakota, northern Minnesota, eastern Indiana and Kentucky. In these areas there are equal chances for above, below, and near-normal temperatures. This is a result of a weak and inconsistent signal in the statistical/dynamical tools.



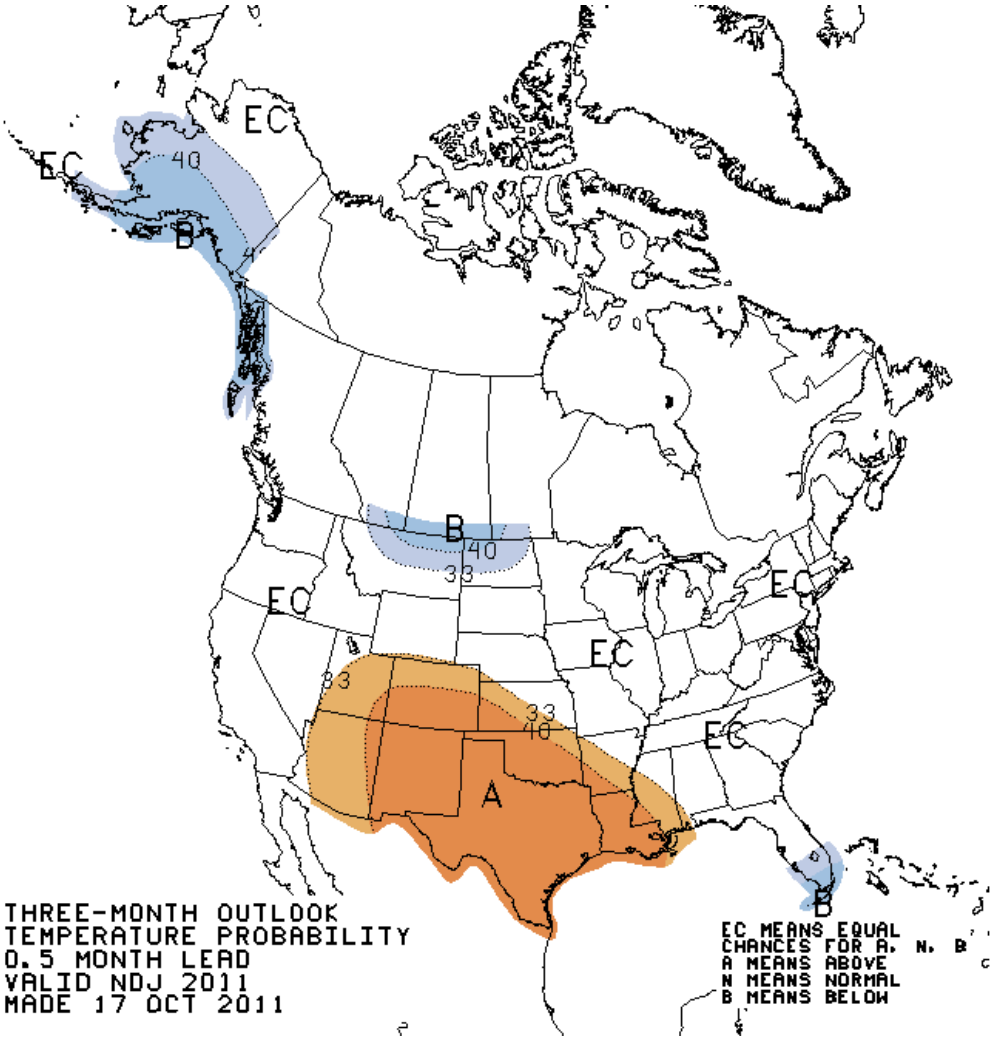
November 2011 CPC Precipitation Outlook

During the three month season of November 2011 through January 2012, the forecast for equal chances for above, below and near normal precipitation is forecast for a majority of Central Region. However, the threat of below normal-precipitation remains enhanced across southern sections of Colorado and Kansas and most of Missouri. In contrast, enhanced probabilities of above normal precipitation can be seen over the upper Great Lakes portions of Central Region. This CPC forecast was weighted heavily on by the La Niña composites in addition to statistical tools.



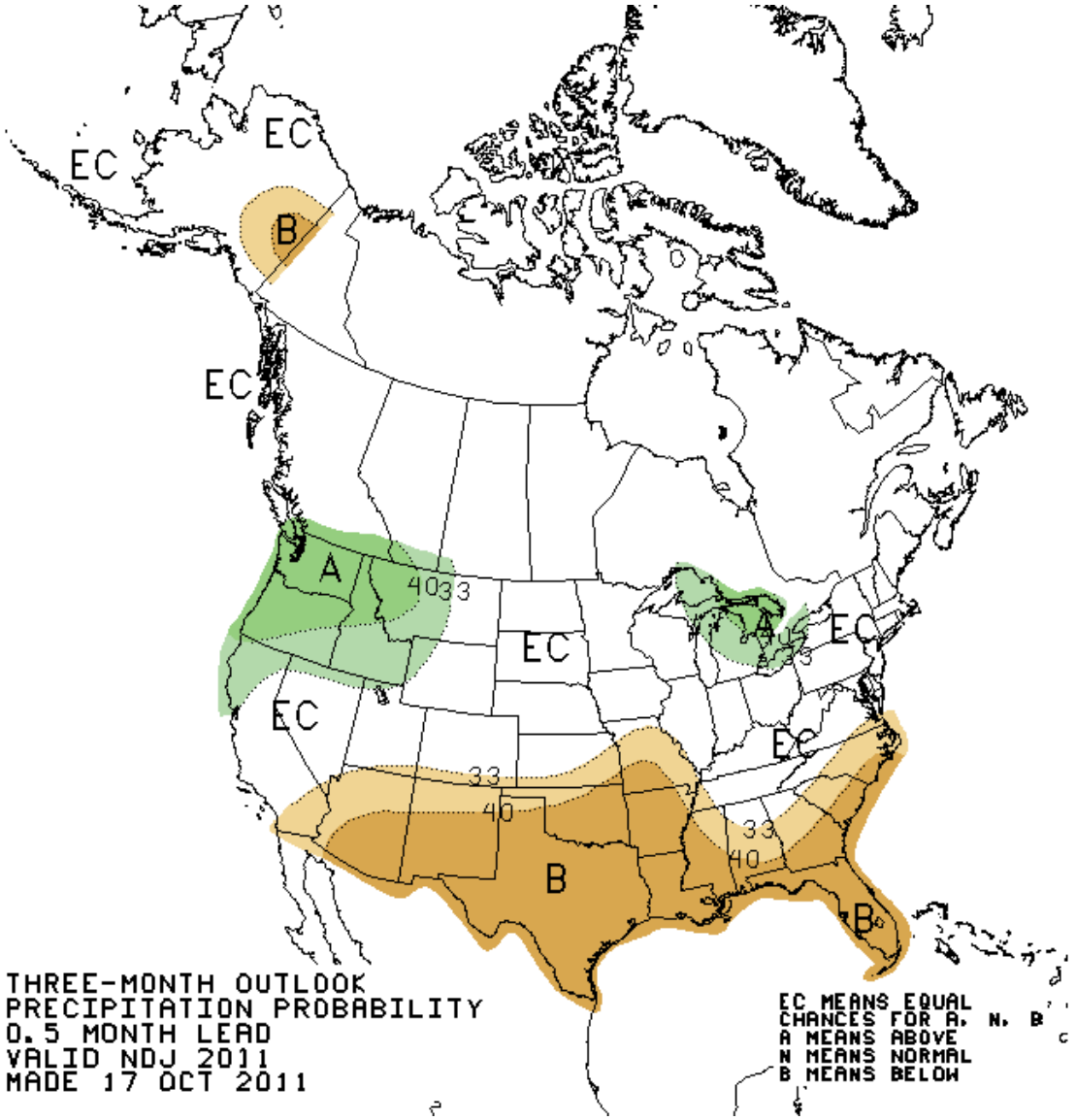
Three Month Temperature Outlook for NDJ of 2011-20012

During the three month season of November 2011 through January 2012, enhanced probabilities for below normal temperatures are forecast for portions of North Dakota. In contrast, enhanced probabilities for above normal temperatures are forecast farther south across southwestern Kansas and Colorado. Elsewhere, equal chances of above, below and near average temperatures are forecast. There is good support for this forecast from a number of forecast tools including La Niña composites. The increased tendency for below average temperatures forecast across the Northern Plains is due largely in part to the tendency for colder air to begin to impact this region during La Niña winters. Uncertainties on timing and the southern extent that this cold air will penetrate the northern CONUS have led to the forecast of equal chances for a majority of the area. Note…September's NJD temperature outlook (not shown) was almost identical.



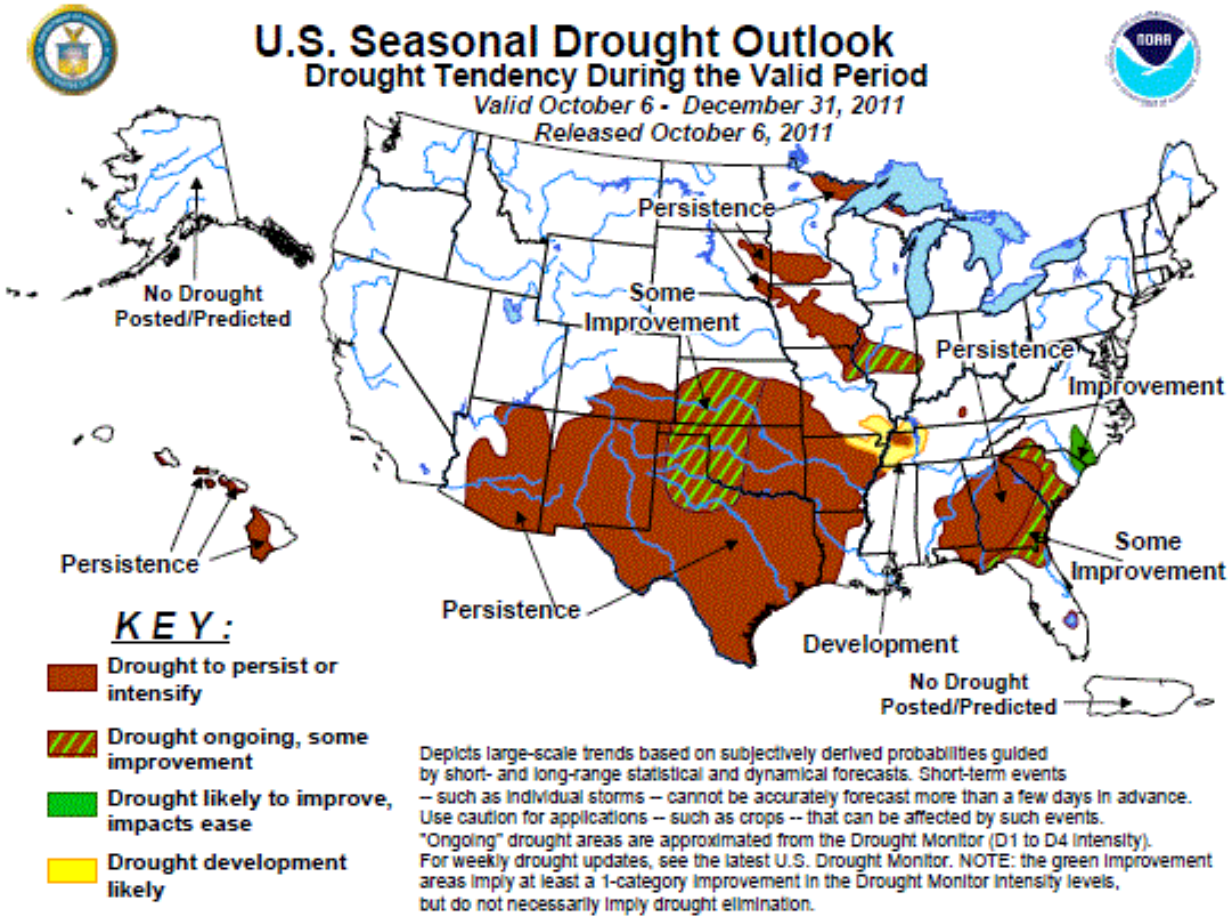
Three Month Precipitation Outlook for NDJ of 2011-2012

During the three month season of November 2011 through January 2012, the forecast for equal chances for above, below and near normal precipitation is forecast for a majority of Central Region. However, the threat of below normal-precipitation remains enhanced across southern sections of Colorado and Kansas and most of Missouri. In contrast, enhanced probabilities of above normal precipitation can be seen over the upper Great Lakes portions of Central Region. This CPC forecast was weighted heavily on by the La Niña composites in addition to statistical tools. Note the slight change from September's NDJ precipitation outlook (second image) in Michigan and over Illinois.



Seasonal Drought Outlook

The most recent U.S Seasonal Drought Outlook valid through the end of the year indicates the potential for at least a one category improvement in the drought conditions for parts of western and central Kansas, and a small area of central Illinois. Other areas that are presently experiencing drought conditions are not expected to see little if any improvement, with the possibility of drought development in a small part of the middle Mississippi valley based on the CPC precipitation forecast.



Seasonal Outlook Interpretation Guide

The National Weather Service Seasonal Climate Outlooks predict the probability of conditions being among the warmest/coldest or wettest/driest (Table 1) terciles of years compared to the period of 1981-2010.

The outlooks indicate probability of being in three specific categories in reference to the 30-year climatology from 1981-2010 (Table 2). Remember, CPC outlooks are made at the scale of climate megadivisions (Fig. 1).

Temperature		Precipitation	
Social Science	**Climate Science**	**Social Science**	**Climate Science**
Uncommonly Cold	Below Normal Tercile	Uncommonly Wet	Above Normal Tercile
Uncommonly Warm	Above Normal Tercile	Uncommonly Dry	Below Normal Tercile
Moderate (Neither Warm Nor Cold)	Normal Tercile	Moderate (Neither Wet nor Dry)	Normal Tercile

Table 2...Climate Science Statistical Terminology (Terciles)

Precip	Temp	Probability of Occurence			Most likely category
		Above	Near	Below	
		80.0%-90.0%	16.7%-06.7%	03.3%	"Above"
		70.0%-80.0%	26.7%-16.7%	03.3%	"Above"
		60.0%-70.0%	33.3%-26.7%	06.7%-03.3%	"Above"
		50.0%-60.0%	33.3%	16.7%-06.7%	"Above"
		40.0%-50.0%	33.3%	26.7%-16.7%	"Above"
		33.3%-40.0%	33.3%	33.3%-26.7%	"Above"
		33.3%-30.0%	33.3%-40.0%	33.3%-30.0%	"Near Normal"
		30.0%-25.0%	40.0%-50.0%	30.0%-25.0%	"Near Normal"
		33.3%-26.7%	33.3%	33.3%-40.0%	"Below"
		26.7%-16.7%	33.3%	40.0%-50.0%	"Below"
		16.7%-06.7%	33.3%	50.0%-60.0%	"Below"
		06.7%-03.3%	33.3%-26.7%	60.0%-70.0%	"Below"
		03.3%	26.7%-16.7%	70.0%-80.0%	"Below"
		03.3%	16.7%-06.7%	80.0%-90.0%	"Below"
		33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	"Equal Chances"